

THE BURNING BUSH

From the Pastor's desk...

Today I have a busy robin tending her nest on my deck. I took-a-peek and saw three little blue eggs. A beautiful color of blue and I thought about God's great design and love for color. Just look at nature all around us! On special occasions he even shows off with a rainbow that has all the colors, as if it were a bridge between heaven and earth. We should be grateful that he didn't make everything in black and white. How boring would that be? However, without white light as a filter for creation, we would not have the rainbow.

In Seminary I had a New Testament professor who put colors to the four gospels and to the Holy Spirit. Red for love, orange for courage, yellow for joy, green for hope, blue for healing, violet for forgiveness and white for wisdom. As for the gospel writers: Matthew-green, Mark-white, Luke-blue and John-red. Its a great way to see the characters and styles of these writers through colors. Green-the color of nature and hope certainly describes Matthew. His style of writing placed Jesus always in a natural environment. He recorded the Sermon on the Mount there, he told of the people that Jesus met as sheep without a shepherd and needed laborers for the harvest. Matthew recorded Jesus' teaching about God's care of the sparrow as he traveled through vineyards, pastures and grain fields. He spoke of sowers, mustard seeds, wheat, bread and fish. White-the color of wisdom and of Mark. Mark recorded the dove that descended upon Jesus at his baptism. We often see white on brides, the linen of sheets and monks robes, and albs like the one I wear during summer. It was Mark who drew the picture for us of the disciples in the boat as the whitecaps on the water in the storm frightened them. He wrote of the healings that Jesus gave. Legions, demons, Jesus own garment of white, which the woman touched the hem of and was healed. Then there was the Transfiguration when Jesus, was transformed before the disciples in a white garment that glistened. Blue-the color of healing and of Luke, the physician. Luke began his gospel with Jesus' birth then his teaching in the temple where a common color worn by rabbis was blue. He records the calling of Simon Peter at the sea of Gennesaret where he asked Peter to let down his net in the blue, deep of the water to catch many fish. Not only did Luke write about many healings, but also how often Jesus used water. He turned water into wine, he encountered a woman who wiped his feet with her tears, and a blind man who did not totally receive his sight until he washed in the pool. John, the color of red and of love. In John, love is in everything. God so loved the world, love your neighbor, love me as I love you and my Father loves me, and the asking of Peter three times, "do you love me." The world possesses all these colors and so should we. The next time you see a rainbow and see it, as I often do, it is a sign of God's love for you. They say that in heaven there are colors unknown to us. Can you imagine!

Pastor Linda

JUNE 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Welker Lake Fishing All Day Cookout 5pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Session 7pm	13 First Baptist Food Pantry 9-12	14 FCM	15	16 223rd Gen. Assembly St. Louis
17 Father's Day	18 Sam & Jane's Anniversary!	19	20	21	22	23 Carrie Black Wedding Mahr/Schutte Wedding
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SESSION SNIPPETS BY PAT WELKER

Notes from the May 8, 2018 Session Meeting

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN ED: Crystal & Jodi & Tammy – 1) A Christian Ed meeting was held on 4/29/18. Decisions were made about Sunday school classes for next year. High School and Junior High students will be a combined class next year. Lissy and Missy will continue to share teaching duties. They will use a variety of curriculum material, including Talk Sheets, an on-line series from rfour.org.

Beth will teach grades 4-5 and use David Cook 2-3 materials.

Jane will teach grades 1-3 and use David Cook 2-3 materials.

Bonnie will teach preschool-K and use David Cook Preschool materials.

***Dates to remember** – May 20 is last day of Sunday school classes for the kids. Kids will be treated to a build your own ice cream sundae at 10:15am to celebrate another year together.

--Sept. 9 is the annual Sunday School Kick-Off Breakfast.

--Sept 16 is first day of Sunday school for kids.

VBS Team met on 4/15/18 and 5/6/18. "Theme is Hero Central"

--Dates are July 29-Aug. 2 from 5:45-8:15pm. Doors will open at 5:30pm.

--Ages 3 to entering 5th grade. (Note: must be potty trained)

--Y.C. Presbyterian is applying for the \$1000 Bucks for Blessing Grant to use for VBS.

--VBS teams were discussed and volunteers quickly stepped in to lead each team.

FELLOWSHIP/MISSION: Tammy, Jodi & Liz- 1) The Session members were asked to bring a dish/dessert for Mother's Day Fellowship. 2) See Old Business for update on June 2nd Fishing Day.

NOMINATING: Tammy Duley as Elder Rep & Marianne Taylor from Deacons. At-Large members are Pat Welker, Michelle Lane and Linda Riley. - Nothing to report at this time.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE/MEMORIAL & PERSONNEL: Kathy, Crystal– 1) Kathy is looking into possible money to be used for VBS from the Memorial Fund. There are some accounts that have been there for years and contain small amounts of money. This would clean up the Worship Fund list. 2) Kathy went over the Financial Report and noted that Manse Taxes went up \$300 from the previous year. 3) July 4th is being planned. 4) The money for the new trees planted by the Trustees along the north side of Church will be paid for out of the Memorial Money. Kathy is going to check with Marianne to see if she would like to use some of Johns money as he was a person who enjoyed trees of all kinds.

WORSHIP: Tony, Lyndsey & Kathy- 1) **Elders to serve Communion on Sunday, June 3 will be Kathy, Lyndsey and Tony. Deacons are Cozy and Missy.**

EVANGELISM: Jodi, Liz & Tammy- Jodi contacting Unity Point Wellness Mobile about possible event.

TECHNOLOGY: Lyndsey & Tony- Lyndsey is going to work with Brady to learn video screen system and website.

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW: Pat- Nothing at this time.

DEACONS' REPORT: The Board of Deacons met April 15, during Fellowship with Missy Herron, Cozy Hoover, Linda Riley, Beth Martin, Marianne Taylor and Pastor Linda in attendance.

\$254.75 was collected for Easter flowers.

Communion served to 56 during Jews for Jesus presentation. 71 served on April 1 during worship.

Shut-in baskets were delivered and it was suggested that we think about changing contents in the future to cookies and flowers for those in Nursing Homes.

There were 10 cards sent and 9 visits made since our last meeting in March. Many greeting cards have been donated and are in the Deacons' closet for our use.

We are to start thinking about how to handle nursery duties for summer if the current baby sitter needs time off.

Next Communion will be May 6, with Cozy serving and bringing bread. Missy will also serve and Marianne will bring juice. We are to save bread in the freezer for Pastor Linda to use on her visits. There is a sign-up sheet in the sanctuary for Acolytes. Next meeting is May 27.

TRUSTEES REPORT: The Trustees met on Sunday, May 6 with Dale, Tim, Ben and Kent Kowal present to discuss any big upcoming projects. The only big project on their list at this time is removing carpeting from the front steps to sanctuary. They plan to fix any concrete problems and then replace the carpet. They decided to wait until after Sunday school was over for the summer. They had heard through the grapevine that Sam wanted concrete around the sign in the church yard, so that he doesn't have to stand in rain/mud when changing the sign each week. Tim and Kent discussed this and decided that pavers would work better. Tim and Kent are going to put the pavers in to improve that area.

PASTORS REPORT: It is good to be back at work on a more active basis. Still, there are many doctor appointments to keep on the days I'm not in the office. I finished speech therapy with a good report. There are exercises for me to do on my own now. The therapist indicated that I am functioning at about 85%. I have found that the more severe headaches cause more difficulty as well as fatigue. This is the strangest thing I have ever experienced. I never know when there is going to be a new episode. I have tried to return to the gym for light exercise, but still I can only tell I've done too much when the headaches get worse. Still trying to find that happy medium, though the headache is always there. Physical therapy continues for my balance. That problem ebbs and wanes, too. Never knowing when my legs will turn to mush or vertigo sets in. I will see the Neurologist next week.

Easter Sunday was a workout with Sunrise service. I was grateful to be able to be here to do both. Farmington Country Manor welcomed me back. 23 Communion services were served following the message and singing.

The Council of Churches met on April 19th to discuss the upcoming scholarship awards and Ice Cream Social to be held on August 12th at the First Baptist Church. This year we have 3 graduating seniors to present. Abbie Phillips, Evan Otto and Alyssa Ulm. The Methodist Church will have 1. Since we will not be having the Pancake Breakfast this year, we may have to find another fundraiser to support our scholarship fund. More to follow.

Things you might like to know about Pentecost/Trinity Sunday

Pentecost: On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world (Acts 2:1-13, Joel 2:28-32)

Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim in word and in deed, God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

Trinity: Trinity Sunday centers on a doctrine of the church, rather than an event. It celebrates the unfathomable mystery of God's being as Holy Trinity. It is a day of adoration and praise of the one, eternal, incomprehensible God.

In celebrating Trinity Sunday, remember that every Lord's Day is consecrated to the triune God. On the first day of the week, God began creation. On the first day of the week, God raised Jesus from the grave. On the first day of the week, the Holy Spirit descended on the newly born church. Every Sunday is special. Every Sunday is a day of the Holy Trinity.

GENERAL ITEMS:

*The Fishing Day/Cookout will be June 2. Come early or plan to stay after to fish, or just come and enjoy the outdoor scenery and listen to the birds. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, whether it be chips, beans, potatoes, etc. If you want, you can provide a case of water and some ice/cooler (leftover water will be used for the July 4th Cookout in the park)

Fishing: Bring your fishing poles and live bait. There are boats there, with and without motors. Also, bring life jackets. We have plenty of kids sized life jackets but, very few adult ones.

Cook Out: Planning to eat around 5-5:30pm. Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be furnished. *Bring a lawn chair if possible. We have a couple of yard games like bags and crochet. If you have a yard game, bring it along!

Directions to Campground: The property is on Coal Hollow Rd., Fairview, IL. Head west on 116, past Middlegrove about 3 miles. There will be a lone house on the left. Turn left onto Coal Hollow Rd. (if you reach the Rapatee corner, you went too far) Continue about 5 miles and at the top of the hill there will be a gate

(gate will be marked) Turn at the gate and keep right to campground. If, you are coming from Farmington on the Fairview/Farmington blacktop, you travel past Providence Chapel and Foster cemetery. Right before you take the last curve to the stop sign prior to getting to Fairview, Coal Hollow Rd is to the right. Go north 1 mile to gate on the right. Enter and stay to the right to go to campground.

*By the time you read this, Sunday school will be over for the kids. The adult Builders' Class continues to meet every Sunday. Come join us and study the Bible with us. We can always use a new perspective on our lesson.

"Grief Camp for Grown-ups" is a free educational grief seminar offered by Unity-Point Hospice-Peoria for individuals who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The seminar is focused on understanding the special challenges of grief and finding positive ways to cope. Thursday, June 7, 2018 5:30-7:30 at the the Methodist Atrium Bldg. ABC conference Rm. Located at 900 Main St. Peoria RSVP 309-672-5746 by June 5th

Free Summer Lunches Near You! Farmington Public Library: Weekdays May 29-Aug.10 11:45-12:15pm OR Jacob's Park Monday, Wednesday, and Friday June 11-July 27 11:30-12pm

Other Announcements:

Congrats to 2018 Grads!

Alyssa Ulm, Abbie Phillips & Evan Otto

Alyssa will attend Illinois College,
Jacksonville, IL

Abbie will attend Truman State
University, Kirksville, MO

Evan will attend Monmouth College,
Monmouth, IL



June 18th

Sam & Jane Rutledge



We will be joining with First Methodist, First United Presbyterian and First Baptist churches for this year's VBS.

The next planning meeting

Sunday, June 24th 12:00pm



PRAYER LIST

Ongoing Prayers: Todd Guidi; Jeff Sturch; Chris's friend has cancer-stage 4; Ed Goggin; Deb Benton, Kevin Martin; Angie; Sally (Grebe) Seaman; Joseph Christiansen; Andy Swanson; Rusty, pancreatic cancer; Haley, experimental meds; Kay Wenzel; Leigh Ann's nephew, John; Melissa's aunt has lupus; Beth's friend Donna SMA; Isabell Haggard (kidney donation) Brandi Hayes, cancer; Terry Schriener; Elisha DeCoursey; Hannah Stancil; Bruce Fisher; Angie Porter; Lisa Adler; Melissa's Grandpa; Nicolle Hannan, Cheryle Fryman's daughter; Mary Ulm, knee replaced; Diana, friend of Tony and Diana; David Garrett & Family in Israel; Beth's brother in law; Darrin Berry; Jim, Jay's co-worker; Tammy Duley; Sean Dray/Sha Lafferty Family, lost home in fire; The people of Santa Fe, TX who are grieving the loss of those killed and wounded in the school shooting; (Donna DeGroot's two great grandchildren attended that school) Melody Martin having special test for seizures.

At Home: Amber Lercher, 24 HR care at home; Katy; Doug St. Clair; Andrew Goggin is now at home waiting for a liver donor. He is now 5th

Those in Assisted Living: Kenny Holmstrom, Barbara Frank, Velma Petty and Keith Quin at Courtyard Estates in Farmington; Dianna Threw at Farmington Country Manor; Hazel Morby at Courtyard Estates in Canton; Leigh Ann Taylor at Heartland in Canton.

Please let the office or Pastor Linda know of those who can be taken off the prayer list. Thank you!

Please let us know of any additions or corrections. Our prayer chain: If you have an urgent prayer request, contact Pat Welker at 309-338-4575. She will then pass the prayer request along.



1 Joe Herron **3** Mike Daniels **4** Penelope Black, Easton Vermillion, Chris Lucas **5** Linda Elliott
6 Grace Berry **8** Shelby Holder **9** Heath Skaggs **15** Cindy Daniels **16** Jodi Phillips **17** James Lambert
19 Gracie Duley **25** Chris Evans **27** Abbie Phillips, Kathy Welch **29** Sam Rutledge

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
83 North Cone Street
Farmington IL 61531-1248

Blessings on:



**COME WORSHIP WITH US
SUNDAYS!**

Sunday School	9:30AM
Fellowship Time	10:30AM
Worship Service	11:00AM

Join us for a great message and God's word! Enjoy wonderful music and fellowship!

**"In the
Beginning
was the
Word, and
the Word
was with
God, and
the Word
was God."
(John 1:1)**

